



**CODE OF  
CONDUCT**

## **Shannon Town United AFC Code of Conduct for Players**

**Shannon Town United AFC wants all players to enjoy their time with the Club. All players are asked to follow the Code of Conduct for Players.**

1. Players should always show respect for team mates, managers/ coaches, opponents and officials.
2. Players should arrive at training/matches in good time, and with appropriate gear.
3. Players should let managers know as soon as possible if you are injured or sick and unable to attend training or matches.
4. Players should be willing to learn and improve. Players should listen to coaches/managers and not distract others in the team.
5. Players should always play to win but accept defeat and victory with the same spirit.
6. Players should always shake hands with opponents after a game.
7. Shannon Town United AFC will not tolerate bullying. If a player feels he/she is being bullied, they should feel safe to tell their manager or the Clubs Children's Officer.
8. The Club wishes all players enjoy football with Shannon Town United AFC. If a player is not, they should tell their parents/manager or the Club Children's Officer.  
Club Children's Officer – John Kelly 0861987565

## **Shannon Town United AFC Code of Conduct for Parents**

**Shannon Town United AFC needs the help/support of all parents to enable us to develop as a club.**

1. Parents should lead by example.
2. Parents should always show respect for all players, opponents, managers, coaches and officials.
3. Remember to let the coach do the coaching at matches and training. Too many coaches confuse the children.
4. Parents are encouraged to give all children positive support at matches. Parents should be mindful that negative comments are counter productive and parents are requested to "Be positive or be Quiet".
5. Parents attending training/matches are asked to conduct themselves in such a way which promotes the definition of fair play.
6. Parents should be prepared to be asked to leave by coaches/officials if behaviour is felt to be contrary to the definition of fair play.
7. Parents are required to support the coaches/referees decisions. These people are giving their time voluntarily and need your support.
8. **Parents are asked to be responsible for transporting their children to matches/training. Please notify the coach/manager in advance if you are not able to travel.**
9. Parents are requested to positively support and encourage their child's involvement in football with the club. Shannon Town United AFC is not a child minding service.
10. Parents should ensure that their children are aware of the Players Code of Conduct and that they abide by it.

## **Shannon Town United AFC Code of Conduct for Coaches/Managers**

**All coaches/managers/committee members in the club will be asked to sign a form agreeing for the Gardai to check if they have been convicted in the past, or have a case pending, in relation to offences against children.**

1. Managers/Coaches/and Parents/Guardians will show respect for all players and officials and lead by example. Respect should always be shown to Referees and recognition given to their official position on the pitch.
2. Coaches should ensure a safe environment for learning and development.
3. Young players play for fun and enjoyment therefore skill development and playing for fun take precedent over highly structured competition. Winning is not the only objective.
4. Coaches should help and encourage young players to develop basic skills and sportsmanship and they should avoid over specialisation in positional play during their formative years.
5. Coaches should ensure that all players are aware that bullying (verbal or physical) will not be tolerated.
6. In relation to young players, coaches should ensure that all players participate and average players require and deserve equal time and attention. Do not overburden young players with too much instruction.
7. Coaches should advise players and parents on how and whom to go to if they wish to make a complaint.
8. Where possible coaches should avoid:
  - a. Spending excessive amounts of time with children away from others.
  - b. Taking sessions alone (always employ "two deep" supervision)
  - c. Taking children to their homes.
  - d. Taking other peoples children on journeys alone in their car.
9. Coaches should never:
  - a. Engage in rough physical games, including horseplay.
  - b. Allow children to use inappropriate language.
  - c. Make inappropriate comments about, or to a child even in fun.
  - d. Let allegations a child makes go without being addressed and recorded.

## **Shannon Town United AFC Anti Bullying Policy**

**It is vital that everyone connected to Shannon Town F.C. understands that bullying will not be tolerated.**

When a manager/coach is confronted with or informed of a possible case of bullying all managers/coaches must be prepared to:

1. Take the problem seriously
2. Investigate the incident/report
3. Talk to the alleged bully and victims separately.
4. Inform the Children's Officer or a Committee member.

Decide on an appropriate action such as:

1. Obtain an apology from the bully to victim.
2. Inform parents of the bully (always inform parents of the victim).
3. Encourage/support the bully to change his/her behaviour.
4. If a bully persists with their behaviour sanctions will be imposed.
5. In cases of persistent bullying coaches/managers must inform the Children's Officer or Committee member, who will then decide an appropriate action in conjunction with the Club's Committee.

**Children's Officer- John Kelly 0861987565**

## **Shannon Town United AFC Definition of Child Abuse**

Child abuse can be categorised under four headings

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect

If a manager/coach/parent/child has a query regarding a suspicion of what might constitute child abuse they can contact a number of groups for guidance, these include:

- The Clubs Children's Officer - John Kelly 0861987565
- Childline - 1800 666 666
- C.A.R.I - 1 800 924 567

The FAI in their own "Code of Ethics" (2003) has given a definition of what constitutes abuse. "Abuse is any action, physical or verbal which exploits or potentially harms or damages a child's physical, emotional or psychological health in a sporting context". These include:

### Physical Abuse:

- Where a child is made to do excessive physical exercise as punishment
- Where training methods are inappropriate for the developmental age of the child.
- When children are allowed to play with an injury.

### Sexual Abuse:

- Where there is inappropriate touching
- A child is exposed to or invited to participate in sexual contact, activity or behaviour
- If inappropriate photographs are taken or adapted.

### Emotional Abuse:

- Where a child is made fun of, criticised, discriminated against or put under unrealistic pressure to perform by parents, coaches or spectators who abuse their power.

### Neglect

- Where a child is not provided with appropriate levels of care and supervision. In soccer, neglect can occur if children do not have proper supervision, clothing, drinks or food or if they are encouraged to play while injured.

## **Shannon Town United AFC Guidelines For Coaches & Managers on Reporting Procedures for Child Abuse.**

It is important to remember that reporting suspected child abuse in good faith is not the same as making an accusation of abuse, i.e. reporting does not mean accusing.

The "Protection for Persons Reporting Child Abuse Act" (1998) provides immunity from civil liability to persons who report child abuse "reasonably and in good faith" to the clubs "designated person". The designated person at Shannon Town FC is the Chairman of committee. John Kelly - 0861987565

The procedure to follow where a child "discloses" child abuse to any coach/manager/committee member in Shannon Town F.C.

- Listen to the child rather than question him/her directly. Offer him/her reassurance without making promises. Take what the child says seriously.
- Do not stop a child who is freely recalling significant events. Explain what you have to do, who you have to tell and the procedures you need to follow (i.e. record what the child has told you and then inform the Chairman).
- Do not question the child. It is vitally important that the child does not feel intimidated when recalling an instance. Ask questions to clarify a point but do not "interrogate" the child.
- Record the discussion as accurately and as soon as possible after the event, even if it is information you do not understand or like writing down.
- Contact the Chairman for advice and guidance. The Chairman may then discuss the concerns/suspicious with Social Services.
- If a child is in immediate danger of abuse, notably physical or sexual abuse, The Gardai should be informed immediately. This should be done through the Chairman if possible. If this is not possible the Gardai should be informed directly.